



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

September 2004 Volume 65 Number 7

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Plan to participate in this Fall's Emergency Preparedness Event!!



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

<u>Position Name & Call Sign</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
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Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
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EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair' man - NEEDED		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -



PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

A **Basic ham course** this fall will be coordinated by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD.

The course will begin Sept. 9, 2004.

Contact him at 823-2024,
or dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca

The **General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our program will be Rob Ewert, VE1KS speaking about his work in Athens for the Olympics.

Guests are welcome.

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation.



If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Sept. 12	Chris	VA1CDB
Sept. 19	Pierre	VE1PTR
Sept. 26	Tom	VE1GTC
Oct. 3	Herb	VE1HX
Oct. 10	Doug	VE1LDL
Oct. 17	Dave	VE1EDA
Oct. 24	Charles	VE1MCR

RAC's web site is www.rac.ca

Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04 on Morse Code

Industry Canada has just published Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04 Consultation on "Recommendations from Radio Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada Concerning Morse Code and Related Matters".

The purpose of the Notice is to solicit public comments. Respondents have 60

(Continued on page 2)

Events for Your '04 Calendar

Saturday, September 18 – Shediac Fleamarket

EMO workshop – TBA

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October – Greenwood Fleamarket

October – JOTA

December - Christmas party

August 13&14,. 2005 -MS Bike Tour

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place Sept. 9 to 11, **2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

(Gazette Notice Continued from page 1)

days to file comments from the date of the Notice, 28 August, 2004. To see the notice, go to:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/infmt-gst.nsf/en/sf06456e.html>

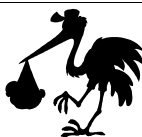
For more background information see RAC President sends formal proposal on Morse Testing to Industry Canada.

<http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm#RAC> President sends formal ...

IT's A BOY!!!!

Pat and Stephanie would like to announce the arrival of their son

Scott Thomas Covert Kavanaugh who was born on August 3, 2004, at 11:32 AM.
Weight 6lbs 12ounces. Length 22".



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 34 Industry Canada has authorized Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) National Capital Chapter 70 to use the **special event call sign VE3QCWA** from September 17 until October 17 in recognition of the QCWA International Convention October 15-17 in Ottawa.. Chapter 70 is hosting the event, which is open to all radio amateurs. QSLs for VE3QCWA go to Jim Dean, VE3IQ.

David, VE1EDA conducts an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).

The goal of the net is to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergency preparedness.

A key lesson learned from one of our EMO exercises is that VHF communication in a hospital environment is fraught with challenges due to the hospital equipment and other sources of interference. Furthermore, 2 meter frequencies are close enough to the communications used by MEDEVAC helicopters to cause problems.

**An emergency preparedness event is being planned.
Tune into the Take 15 Net for more information.**

If you want to use the **Club station** for an activity **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK
E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca

HARC Digital Communication Special Interest Group

Interested in Digital Communication? The structure of the group's activities and endeavours is very loose and aims to address topics like interfacing computers and amateur gear as well as communicating via digital modes on VHF, HF and UHF. We will attempt to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible.

The more people who are involved, the greater the fun and the learning

Come and join us. Everyone is welcome! No previous experience required!
If you're interested, please contact me at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

73 John VE1CDD

CHANGES AT VE1PSR

Over the summer there have been some changes at the repeater. I have updated the firmware in the controller and written completely new programming. Not all the bugs are out of the new programming yet so bear with me. There is a new UHF repeater on 444.350 + and I have also installed the new 6M repeater on 53.550 -. The link codes are published in the new call book. Unfortunately the UHF repeater stopped transmitting audio recently and I hope to take a look at in the near future. The 6M repeater has severe desense on the receiver, I believe due to the shaking up the duplexer got in transporting it to the site, I have not had a chance to retune them yet so bear with me on this. I hope to have some time for the repeater in the near future. I have also not tried all the features of the new programming so I am not sure how some of it will work. I will put some more information in a future newsletter along with some user codes to access some of the features. I will be installing temperature sensors this fall and will have an audio delay module fitted in the near future. The audio delay board will be on the VHF repeater and the difference is that you should not hear any DTMF when someone is dialling or squelch crunch when someone unkeys. This will be the same as what is on VE1HNS currently.

Bill, VE1MR

Anderson Powerpole connectors are available now from the HARC. The price to members is \$1.25 each (for a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. Contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Never buy a car you can't push.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE September 2004

The end of summer is fast approaching and a great time of year to do antenna projects. I hope you enjoyed a safe summer and will enjoy the last of summer as well. The club was busy over the summer with Field Day, pizza nights, MS bike tour and the lighthouse weekend. These enjoyable events were well attended by members and visitors.

We did very well in the ARRL Field Day event posting a score of 8888. The bands were quite good and the operators did a great job, the phone contacts were down a little but the CW ops did extremely well. We also were able to claim almost every bonus point available. We had several visitors and some of these operated. Craig, VE1JMA, is to be commended on organizing the Get On The Air station operators, we also had several drop in operators for this station. The GOTA station contributed quite a bit to the final score and it will be interesting to see other Canadian 2A class scores to see if they made the difference.

The pizza nights were well attended and everyone had a great social evening both months.

The MS bike tour went very smoothly this year with fewer accidents and incidents as well as being a bit quicker. There were slightly fewer riders than previous years but they had good conditions for most of the ride. With new staff at the MS society I believe Rick, VE1RGG, helped them immensely with his previous experience. We also used APRS in more vehicles this year and it worked well on both days with only a few glitches. I think all borrowed equipment got back to the rightful owners very quickly this year.

The Lighthouse and Lightship weekend event went well with about 200 contacts in very poor propagation. There were several operators and greeters at the event both to operate and greet the general public who came to see what was going on.

The EMO trailer is now spruced up with decals of the NSARA, HARC, DARC and ESARC as well as reflective lettering for EMO and the callsign. The trailer was used by the club quite a bit this summer. It did double duty at the MS bike tour, running a repeater and an APRS node. The trailer was at Field Day and held a triband beam for the CW station. The same setup was used at Peggy's Cove for the Lighthouse event. I think the trailer will be out to a scouting event in September as well.

There is a lot of planning and information coming up at the September meeting so I hope many of you will be there to help steer the course of the club for 2005. Next year will be an exciting year with lots of activities, many similar to this past year but some new activities will also be discussed.

The new course will begin about the time you receive this newsletter and it looks like Howard, VE1DHD will have a good class starting off. I am sure there will be information on this and other activities elsewhere in the newsletter.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

NET CONTROLLERS

We need more people to be net controllers for the Take-15 net on Sunday evenings. This is a simple job that any one can do and is good practice for EMO purposes when you may be required to lead a net. Currently the rotation is about once every 2 months but with a few more this will stretch out to 3 months. How about it, 4 times a year is not much. Please consider donating an hours time to the club on a Sunday evening a few times a year.

PARTICIPATION

Would you like to be more involved with the club activities. It is the time of year to plan for the 2005 club year. The club will need people to take on tasks and work on committees as well as be part of the executive. No one job is usually very large and the more people involved the less any single person needs to do. Over the next few months we will be canvassing club members for participation for the coming year. Will we be doing a flea market, Field Day, operating events and similar activities?? The answers to these questions is dependent on people coming forward to take on and help with these things. Please consider how you can help the club in the coming year.

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?

DX n' HF

We are back with our "new" column! We missed June because Scott, who was travelling in his camper van up in Alaska, did not get it written and e-mailed to Lynn. Well, there is just that much more to tell you about.

In May we projected four DX n' HF activities in June, July and August. They were field day (25–27 June); the IOTA (Islands on the Air) contest (23–25 July); the DX Forum (7 August); and the International Amateur Radio Lighthouse weekend (21–23 August). We are happy to say that three of the planned events did take place. Our plans to operate from Tancook Island did not happen due to logistical difficulties. The main obstacle was the lack of satisfactory operating and sleeping accommodations. The one B & B on the island was no longer operating. Elsewhere in the *Reflector* you can read about the great success with Field Day, so here we will concentrate on reporting about the other two events.

The DX Forum

It was raining like crazy Saturday morning (7 August) on Moser Island in Glen Margaret, NS. It looked like the 20 participants were going to be sitting most of the day in Scott's living room. The day began with a talk by Kim Mathiesen, OZ1MAL/mm, on *HF Operating Around the World on a 42' Sailboat*. Kim and his wife Kirsten were visiting Scott, the Island's resident "Scandinavian", for several days while their beautiful yacht was anchored in Snug Harbour Cove behind his place. They are very adventuresome long distance sailors who on their last trip out of Denmark were away for *seven years*! This time they have been away *only two years* - so far. Kim, who is a civil engineer, also has been a ham for 20 years. He provided very colourful and humorous stories about their sailing adventures and, more particularly, about the vital role their maritime mobile station has played in keeping them safe and entertained. Kim, as a speaker, was great hit!

Just before we were ready to break for lunch, the rain stopped and the skies lightened up. We were able to proceed with our BBQ on Scott's deck, overlooking the water. The food was delicious and varied so no one left the DX Forum unsatisfied at the end of the day.

Dick, VE1AI, showed his excellent video production of the 1993 Gambian Expedition that included: himself; Ken, VY2RU; Scott, VE1QD; and Don, VE1AOE. It was a good introduction to the exciting world of DXing from exotic locations, and a pleasant trip down memory lane for Dick, Ken and Scott. There was some discussion about possible venues that might be destinations for interesting and low cost mini-expeditions e.g. Islands around the Maritimes. Do you have some suggestions that should be considered for the future?

John Scott, VE1JS, continued the afternoon's relaxed proceedings with an interesting talk and discussion about the new Maritime Contest Club (MCC). This is a way we - as MCC members - can combine our individual scores in selected contests to show an impressive result for our region. Next month this column will deal with contesting and more details about the MCC will be provided. In the meantime, you can e-mail John Scott to become a member: scotts@tartannet.ns.ca. He is anxious to hear from you.

This first effort to organize a DX Forum was pronounced a success by all who attended. We attracted DX enthusiasts from the Annapolis Valley, PEI, Cape Breton and many corners of the HRM. The sentiment was definitely in favour of repeating the event next year. The final discussion of the day was about what might be done on the next occasion to attract even more participants, from even more areas of the region. Scott expressed willingness to again host next year's conclave. However, he pointed out if the numbers got very big we would

need to expand onto his large front field - a kind of *Radio Woodstock for Dxers*. However, it was quickly noted by one smart aleck that more mud would be needed to emulate that famous music event!

International Amateur Radio Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

Well, with the DX Forum under our belt we went to work on organizing the lighthouse weekend. This was not a contest but rather an event to celebrate lighthouses and to put about 350 lighthouses in 45 countries on the air.

Our venue at Peggy's Cove was the Old Red School House, a few hundred yards from the lighthouse and a popular place for visitors. We set up antennas, and both a SSB and CW station on Friday. We launched operations at 2101 hrs ADT (0001 UTC). Over the weekend we made only 175 contacts - 129 on SSB and 46 on CW. Although this was disappointing, all those operating had a good time and recognized that our low power and the abysmal atmospheric conditions were the limiting factors. Gary, VE1RGB, valiantly operated the CW station by himself, having probably set a world record for the number of CQ's transmitted in a 48 hour period. Others involved in set up and operations were: VE1AI, VE1DHD, VE1EDA, VE1HKY, VE1HMH, VE1HMR, VE1NAN, VE1PUP, VE1QD, VE1TRB, VE1GTC, VE1BSW, VE1MR and VE1TRI. It was agreed that this is a summer event that should be repeated but probably with the assistance of a small amplifier.

Over the weekend we had a number of visitors to Peggy's Cove drop into to see what we were up to, including the occasional ham who was drawn to the School House by the sight of our tri-band yagi.

DX Mobiling

Finally, this month, just a few notes from Scott about the joys of operating his FT-100 rig and ATAS-100

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screwdriver antenna from his 19' camper van, or as he described it to Kim (OZ1MAL), "my small land yacht". The 20,000 km trip went from Halifax to Dayton for the big Hamvention (together with VE1AI) before continuing northwest through Winnipeg, along the Yellow head Highway and finally North to Alaska. The North is awesome in its beauty and quickly exhausts the power of *wows*. Unfortunately, however, operating conditions in northern latitudes are an additional barrier to DXing. One just has to try harder!

While Scott's spouse, Susan, drove, he talked. Besides the wide range of North American contacts, the key DX worked from various locations included: DL5RPW (Germany), DS1JFY (S. Korea), EM0U (Ukraine), ES1AR (Estonia), ES1WW, IK2RZY (Italy), IK5BEM, JR1NHD (Japan), LU1ECZ (Argentina), OH2BH (Finland), ON6WA (Belgium) and V31NL (Belize). There were two operating highlights worthy of special mention. The first was operating the Canada Day Contest as Scott drove across Saskatchewan into Manitoba. Fun!! The second was the contact with Maritti Laine from a campground in Whitehorse. Dick, VE1AI and Scott had met and chatted with Maritti at the DX Dinner and again later at the Yaesu booth. He expressed keen interest in and strong support for HARC's efforts to promote DX and HF operations. Do you suppose we could get him here next year?

On that intriguing note, bye for this time. Next month you can read about HF contesting.

Howard Dickson, VE1DHD;
Dick Grantham, VE1AI; and
Scott Wood, VE1QD

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for
each additional family member at
same address (only 1 newsletter)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 29, July 23, 2004

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is to ask the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) to consider establishing a set of Amateur Radio channels in the **60-meter** (5 MHz) band. "We have put together a list of six proposed 5 MHz single-frequency allocations," said WIA Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU. He said the WIA came up with the proposed allocations using the ACA's on-line frequency database and a database of Pacific 5 MHz channels. "The 5 MHz band is used heavily throughout the Pacific," Dunstan points out, "and this would restrict any amateur activity to a series of spot frequencies, with operation most probably confined to upper sideband, as is the case in the US and the UK." He said having frequencies available in the vicinity of 5 MHz would particularly enhance the capabilities of the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network (WICEN)--Australia's equivalent of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

The WIA, which has been undergoing a restructuring, now has a national Web site

<http://www.wia.org.au>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 29, July 23, 2004

British Columbia amateurs Steve McDonald, VE7SL, Mayne Island, and Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, Vancouver reportedly completed the first western Canadian contact on the 2200 meter band on July 10. McDonald said the **contact** between the two stations **on 137.754 kHz** spanned a distance of **approximately 50 km**. "VE7TIL utilized slow-speed CW--QRSS3--mode, while VE7SL used normal CW," McDonald said. VE7TIL was running a homebrew transmitter that ran about 1 W output, while VE7SL was using a homebrew crystal-controlled exciter into a single FET amplifier at 100W output. "Both of us used similar antenna systems for transmitting--a loaded three-wire flattop T," McDonald said, and small loop antennas for receiving. McDonald said he hoped their efforts would stimulate more interest in LF in western Canada. For more information about 136 kHz activity and equipment, visit The VE7SL Radio Notebook <<http://www.imagenisp.ca/jsm>> and The Radio Beacon 'TIL' Web sites.

<http://www.scottboxx.com/radio/>

*When everything's coming your way
you're in the wrong lane.*

August 02, 2004

Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group@yahoo.com

RAC President sends formal proposal on Morse Testing to Industry Canad.

Following informal discussions over a period of about one year, and decisions reached at the CARAB meeting last fall, RAC has prepared a formal proposal to Industry Canada, with detailed recommendations on issues related to Morse testing, and other aspects of certification. It is expected that Industry Canada will make every effort to consult with interested amateurs and other spectrum users in Canada, and reach a decision as soon as possible.

The covering letter from President Lamoureux to Mr. Jan Skora Director-General of the Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch of Industry Canada is also available on the web site and can be found here:

<http://www.rac.ca/news/morseletter20july04.doc>

Details of the proposal in MS Word format can be downloaded from the RAC web site.

<http://www.rac.ca/news/proposaljul04.doc>

And the same proposal in pdf format can be found

<http://www.rac.ca/news/proposaljul04.pdf>

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of June 16, 2004

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1938 hrs Wednesday, May 19th 2004 with 23 members in attendance (quorum is 20% of membership –

109 full + 2 life = $111 \times .20 = 22.2$ members).

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President;
Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer;
Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager (arrived at break);
Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member at Large.

Silent Keys: None reported.

Guests: Ken Rojeski

Minutes of the monthly meeting of 21 April 2004:

Approval of the April Monthly Meeting minutes as published in the May 2004 Reflector was moved by Win (VE1WIN) and seconded by Chris (VA1CDB). It was pointed out that Garry – VE1RGB was actually a Club member but had been mistakenly recorded as a guest last month. Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's Report – John (VE1CDD) reported a bank balance of \$8,104.19 as of June 15th. The callbook printer bills have now both been paid and the Club GIC interest for the year was reported as \$2,029.30. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Lynn (VE1ENT) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX). With no further discussion, motion carried. Copy of the monthly report of the Treasurer is appended to the hard-copy of these minutes.

President –

Field Day – Bill reported that several older Hams have recently found it necessary to move into apartments or

condos where antenna restrictions exist, and as a result, have indicated that they wish to donate their equipment to the Club.

Bill reported that work has been carried out recently on the antenna system on the VE1PSR – 147.270(+) repeater by a number of Club members in an effort to improve reception the transmission foot-print. Bill has also updated the software and firmware for the VE1PSR controller, and has installed two new PSR repeaters – an UHF 444.350(+) and 6m 53.550(-). The 6m repeater is experiencing some problems that will hopefully be corrected over the summer, but both of the new repeaters are operational.

Bill informed the membership that Win (VE1WIN) was holding a silent auction on an equipment hutch that he recently built.

Secretary – nothing to report.

1st Vice-President – nothing to report.

2nd Vice-President – absent.

Station Manager – absent

Member at Large – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that the membership has reached 126 (109 full; 15 associate; and 2 life members) – two short of 2003 membership total. Membership report appended to hard copy of these minutes.

Tom reminded members that Dave (VE1EDA) is running an EMO information net each Sunday evening prior to the Take-15 Net. If there is sufficient interest Tom is prepared to offer the Introductory EMO Communications Course this summer.

Committee Reports:

Search & Rescue Competition – Dave (VE1AJP) reported a busy week with three searches and two false calls. Dave informed the membership that George Dunfee (VE1AGT) will be honoured posthumously by the Ground Search & Rescue Organization at their 2003 Awards Banquet at the end of June. George's many contributions to

Ground S&R will be recognized by a special plaque of honour that will be placed in the S&R Command Bus.

EMO – Dave reported some recent problems that the Fire Department has been having with the Fire Paging System. Dave also pointed out that in the United States, there has been a change in the way Radio Amateurs are referred to in relation to their emergency communication activities. They are referred to as Volunteer Communicators to emphasise the fact that they are truly professional, not amateur communicators even though they are not on the payroll.

2004 Callbook Report – Fraser reported that there are only 348 copies of the 2004 Callbook remaining unsold.

Field Day – Bill (VE1MR) reported that written permission to use the old DoT site off the Hammonds Plain Rd. on the south side of Exit #5 has been secured.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

Bill (VE1MR) reported that while visiting the Queen's County Club to consult on linking their repeater into the backbone, he learned that the Club found a "Collector Callbook" with three front covers in their bulk Callbook purchase.

The Chair called a 20-minute break; the meeting to reconvene to discuss Field Day.

The meeting reconvened at 2032 with 21 members present – no longer a quorum!

50:50 Draw – won by Lynn (VE1ENT)



Door Prize – a 32-piece precision tool set was won by Win (VE1WIN).

Field Day Discussion – Bill went through the check-off list of Field Day To Do Items – hard copy attached to these minutes. It was determined that the Club is short on coax

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

and a motion was placed to purchase a 500 foot roll. Since there was no longer a quorum the motion could not be dealt with at this meeting. However, there is an urgent need for coax for Field Day and so the Executive will take this under advisement in relation to the overall Field Day budget, which is part of the overall Club budget that was discussed by the President in January. John (VE1CDD) will pick up some coax from Bob (VE1VCK).

Jim (VE1SFX) and Chris (VA1CDB) both agreed to download and print copies of the ARRL Field Day rules. Howard (VE1DHD) to get a copy of the times when the ARRL message will be broadcast.

On a motion by Lynn (VE1ENT) at 2135, the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, Secretary

From: The Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin (June 20 2004)

Did you know that

the International Morse symbol for / (forward slash) used in Web site addresses is:

.._. (dah dit dit dah dit)
or the letters TF run together

This symbol is amongst many that are included in ITU Recommendation M.1677 entitled "The International Morse Code" recently approved by the International Telecommunications Union.

In the same Recommendation, the symbol AC or ._. to represent the character @ used in all e-mail addresses, was approved.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, #16
The Elser-Mathes Cup, sitting idle for more than 75 years, is intended to mark the occasion of the first two-way Amateur Radio contact between Earth and Mars.

See www.aidrac.ca

From: The Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin (June 20 2004)

Updated New Zealand Amateur Radio Service

The amateur licence itself may disappear and a GURL ("General User Radio Licence") introduced for New Zealand amateur radio stations. This is just one of many possibilities awaiting our service in ZL as they themselves await the full outcome of their Ministries review of the Amateur Service in ZL.

New Directions in Amateur Radio Licensing in New Zealand

The changes started on 17 June when a new revised Schedule 3 attached to the ZL licence comes into effect. Other changes will take effect over the next 18 months or more. The news is all good. Many long-standing problems are being eliminated. Some of the changes are believed to be world firsts.

There is only one grade of amateur operator licence in New Zealand, the General Amateur Licence. The word "General" must continue meantime because it is hard-entered in the Ministry's existing database.

All existing Limited Amateur licensees automatically became General Amateur licensees on 17 June 2004 irrespective of what is written on their existing licences.

A change of callsign can be requested following the existing rules. There being only one licence grade, licences will no longer indicate a grade.

All amateur bands remain the same but the LF band is being listed for the first time as an allocated amateur band and is extended from 130 to 190 kHz.

The permitted maximum transmitter power output for an amateur station is quoted with one figure: 500 watt PEP. This is defined in the ITU RR 1.157(see Appendix fol-

lowing). With only one figure, it is now mode-independent.

Licensed overseas visitors, i.e. persons holding a current amateur certificate of competency, authorisation, or licence issued by another administration, may operate an amateur station in New Zealand under a General User Radio Licence (GURL) with similar privileges to a ZL resident station for a period not exceeding 90 days, provided the certificate, authorisation or licence meets the requirements of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544, or CEPT T/R 61-01, or CEPT T/R 61-02, and is produced at the request of the Chief Executive.

The present country-to-country reciprocal licence agreements will disappear in time as more countries directly recognise the licences issued by other administrations. Cross-border travel by radio amateurs will become easier.

The callsign to be used by a visitor from overseas will be the home-country callsign as allocated by the other administration with an added prefix "ZL" or an added suffix "ZL" which is to be separated from the national callsign by the character "/" (telegraphy), or the word "stroke" (telephony).

With one examination, with only one licence grade, and with new and simplified procedures, New Zealand amateur radio is positioned for an exciting future.

Appendix: Extract from The ITU International Radio Regulations: fa.. Peak envelope power (of a radio transmitter): The average power supplied to the antenna transmission line by a transmitter during one radio frequency cycle at the crest of the modulation envelope taken under normal operating conditions.

*You know you're getting old when
you stoop to tie your shoes and
wonder what else you can do while
you're down there.*

The Canadian Contest Championship for 2004

The Canadian Contest Championship is sponsored by Radio Amateurs of/du Canada in order to generate interest in contest operating among Canadian Amateurs and to provide a measure of the performance of Canadian Contest operators. It was originated and formerly sponsored by "The Canadian DX Association (CANAD-X)"

ELIGIBILITY: The Canadian Contest Championship (CCC) is open to any Canadian Amateur operating from a Canadian location in the Single Operator (Unassisted) Mode in any of the contests listed below. There is no specific entry form required. Each Canadian operating in one of the listed contests enters CCC automatically by submitting an official entry to the sponsors of the contest. Please submit your entry no matter how small it may seem

CONTESTS: Participation in the following contests will count if there are at least 10 Canadian entries in a given contest. All contests count equally.

ARRL DX SSB	ARRL DX CW	ARRL SS SSB	ARRL SS CW
ARRL 160m CW	ARRL 10m	CQ WW SSB	CQ WW CW
CQ WPX SSB	CQ WPX CW	CQ 160m SSB	CQ 160m CW
RAC Canada Day	RAC Winter	*IARU Radiosport	RSGB IOTA
*RSGB Commonwealth Contest			

CATEGORIES: There will be three categories QRP (5 Watts or less output), Low Power (6 Watts to 150 Watts output) and Max Power (up to the legal limit output). *The IARU contest and the Commonwealth Contest do not have separate power categories. These contests will count to the category in which the majority of an operator's contests lie, but may not be used toward QRP scores.

SCORING: Results will be taken from the published results of each contest. The station placing first in each contest will receive a number of points equal to the average number of Canadian entrants in all CCC contests in 2002. For the year 2004 this number is 58. The station placing second will receive one less point and so on, until either 1 point is reached, or the last entrant is reached, whichever comes first. After that, zero points will be awarded. All band, single band, SSB and CW entries will be listed together.

The final score for the Canadian Contest Championship will be the sum of the best five scores of each entrant. To be eligible for an award in any category, an operator must enter at least 4 contests in that category.

AWARDS in the form of a certificates will be presented to the overall winners in each category and to the winners of each category in each Canadian Call Area, i.e. VE1-9, VO1, VO2, VY0, VY1 and VY2, provided there are at least three entrants from an area.

It would be very much appreciated if operators who use special calls or prefixes or change call signs notify the undersigned at any of the addresses below, so that proper credit may be given where due.

Questions/suggestions may be sent to

John Scott, VE1JS ve1js@rac.ca
General Delivery
Sandy Cove, NS



MS Bike Tour 2004 -by Rick VE1RGG

This year marked the fifteenth anniversary for the MS Society holding a bike tour in Atlantic Canada. Many of the staff has changed during the past twelve months. Only 2 junior staff members out of about 12 in total were involved in last years' bike tour so they were relying heavily on the expertise from all the volunteers that help out each year.

There were about 350 cyclists this year and proceeds are expected to be in the \$275,000 range which is down from previous years. Pledges were still coming in as of the end of August.

Most activities were kept the same as last year and the ham operators filled the role of providing communications in all the major support vehicles. Several cyclists fell off their bikes again at the Brookfield train tracks due to the rain causing slippery metal tracks and the bad angle that the cyclist must cross at. I was also one of the casualties this year receiving a black eye from getting hit by a bike rack while closing the rear hatch on one of the support vehicles. The bike rack couldn't be seen when the rear hatch was opened. It felt about the same as getting hit by a bat when one of the long bike support arms that stick out came down and hit me.



Tom, VE1GTC, provided communication for one of the mobile bike repair teams

We used APRS again this year to assist in determining where the key support vehicles were located at any given time. We had much better results this year with Bob, VE1PQ, and Terry, VE1TRB, providing mobile digipeaters along the route to fill in the gaps along the way. Bill, VE1MR, was



David, VE1EDA, babysitting the EMO trailer
(which is now sporting its decals)

watching it all on a laptop at one of the rest stops and tried to keep the vehicles spread out as much as possible.



Rick, VE1RGG, received an Ambassador
Award from the MS Society

The weather cleared up on Saturday afternoon which helped with the evening dinner and dance. I missed the supper due to having a severe head ache and having to keep ice on my eye for several hours.

We hope to have an entertainment session on APRS at a club meeting sometime soon once we have had a chance to do some analysis on how things went. In the meantime, there are several web sites available which explain how APRS works. They can be easily found by searching for "ham aprs" on the internet.

RCMP Bulletin

Keep alert for people with cell phones in hand standing near you in the checkout line at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc., With the new camera cell phones, they can take a picture of your credit card, which gives them your name, number and expiration date.



Identification theft is one of the fastest growing crimes today, and this is just another example of the means that are being used. So, be aware of your surroundings

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 21,
May 21, 2004

HAM RADIO-CARRYING ROCKET MAKES IT TO MARGIN OF SPACE

Following its May 17 launch from Nevada's Black Rock Desert, a solid-fuel amateur rocket carrying a ham radio avionics package easily exceeded its primary goal of attaining an altitude of 100 km--62 miles--considered the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space, its sponsors say. An Amateur Radio direction finding team later recovered the rocket's avionics package intact. Avionics Team Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE, told ARRL that the 21-foot, 10-inch diameter Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) <<http://www.civilianspace.com/>> GoFast vehicle reached an altitude of 77 miles according to its onboard instruments, making it the first civilian rocket to do so.

"We well shattered any definition of space, and everybody's jubilant here," Knight told ARRL from Nevada. "Within two seconds into the flight we were already supersonic." An ARRL member, Knight said 75 to 100 people--many of them radio amateurs--witnessed the launch, and some asked how they could become licensed. The launch itself, Knight reported, "went like clockwork."

During the vehicle's descent to Earth, a ballistic parachute deployed to keep it from tumbling, slow its velocity and make it hit the ground nose first. "The avionics package looks pristine," Knight said. "It could fly again." That's not likely however, since the CSXT team is hoping the avionics will end up in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

A volunteer aerospace tracking and recovery team of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio operators calling itself Stratofox <<http://www.stratofox.org>> zeroed in on signals from the fallen rocket, which came down in rugged, mountainous terrain some 25 miles from the launch site. Tiny bird-tracking transmitters operating in the 224-MHz range were embedded into the parachute shroud lines solely for tracking purposes.

The avionics team's homebuilt patch-type antennas served the 33-cm telemetry downlink and 2.4 GHz Amateur TV transmitters as well as the onboard GPS units. The color ATV system was able to provide some photos during the first several seconds of the flight, but Knight said the rocket's spin--about nine cycles per second--caused the video to blur after that.

The avionics team includes eight Amateur Radio licenses, most of whom also were involved in an unsuccessful 2002 CSXT launch attempt. The entire 18-member CSXT team is headed by CSXT founder and Program Director Ky Michaelson, a retired Hollywood stunt man.

The United Kingdom Rocketry Association this week conveyed congratulations to the US team.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 25,
June 18, 2004

IOWA HAM IS BPL INTERFER- ENCE "POSTER CHILD"

The ARRL has weighed in on behalf of Iowa amateur and ARRL member Jim Spencer, W0SR, of Cedar Rapids, who has suffered severe broadband over power line (BPL) interference for more than two months. A formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon calls on the Commission not only to order Alliant Energy's BPL field trial system to shut down but to fine the utility \$10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Alleging "ongoing harmful and willful interference to one or more licensed radio stations," the ARRL asked Solomon to intervene "on an emergency basis." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who signed the letter of complaint, said Alliant Energy has been aware since March 30--the date it installed Amperion BPL equipment in Spencer's neighborhood--that the BPL system was causing harmful interference.

"It's unacceptable for Alliant Energy to continue to cause interference while they're trying to solve the problem," Sumner said. While the utility has been cooperative, mitigation efforts have been only marginally successful. The BPL system continues in operation, Sumner notes, despite repeated requests to eliminate the interference or shut the system down.

The complaint cites the Commission's own Part 15 rules prohibiting harmful interference from the operation of an unlicensed intentional, unintentional or incidental radiator to a licensed radio service. "If harmful interference is caused, the radiator may not operate,"

The letter of complaint summarizes and culminates a series of exchanges and actions in an unsuccessful effort to resolve Spencer's BPL interference. Sumner said the League got specifically involved in Spencer's case after United Power Line Council

<<http://www.uplc.org>> President William R. Moroney invited the League in mid-March to keep his organization in the loop on any cases of BPL interference that were not being satisfactorily addressed. When Spencer's case arose, Sumner said, the League considered it "a good place to start."

Among other approaches, Alliant Energy has tried notching out the HF amateur bands. After notching attempts in late May, Spencer--a retired engineer and former Collins Radio employee--still reported "significant levels" of BPL interference on some bands and power line noise on 160 meter and 80 meters.

An Amperion contractor indicated that the notching--or "power masking" remains a "beta procedure" as well as "somewhat labor intensive." The contractor, Tom Luecke, indicated to Spencer in early April that he had cranked down the BPL system's gain "a notch below where I would like to have them" on three units closest to Spencer's home.

Although claiming Amperion's equipment to be FCC Part 15 compliant, "We are not a radio silent technology, nor do we claim to be," Luecke conceded. "Put another way, you can hear our signal, but we strive not to interfere with ham operators on the ham bands." He said his company has a good track record with the amateur community and "would like to think that the majority of apprehension about Amperion's technology lies in misinformation."

Sumner said UPLC representatives have made good-faith efforts to persuade Alliant Energy to comply with the FCC rules. Spencer "has cooperated fully and patiently" with Alliant Energy's and Amperion's fruitless efforts to eliminate the interference, the complaint notes.

"The situation in Jim's case [has been] going on for 10 weeks," Sumner said. "If this is the best we can expect when a BPL system causes interference, then the only answer is to prevent them from being de-

ployed." The letter of complaint calls on the FCC to notify Alliant Energy "immediately to cease operation of their BPL devices in accordance with §15.5(c), and to follow up with a Notice of Apparent Liability."

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 25,
June 18, 2004

Broadband over Power Line video available: A video that clearly and concisely explains and depicts the threat of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) to Amateur Radio now is available for downloading free of charge from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/06/18/8/BPL-and-HF-web.mpg>>. The video, BPL and HF: A Primer, runs approximately three and one-half minutes (including credits). It's suitable for Amateur Radio club presentations as well as for non-ham audiences, such as the news media, civic clubs, local governments and emergency response agencies. A suitable "companion piece" for the video presentation is the ARRL brochure "Broadband over Power Line: Why Amateur Radio is Concerned about Its Deployment," <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/bpl-deployment.html>> which makes an ideal informational hand-out. Members of the North Carolina BPL Action Team--Frank Lynch, W4FAL; Tom Brown, N4TAB; and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ--with assistance from Cyndi Pearce, KD4ACW; Danny Musten, KD4RAA; and SoundTrax Studios in Raleigh, North Carolina, shot and narrated the video. It was produced and edited by Flint Ridge Productions. The file is approximately 18 MB. A high-speed Internet connection is strongly advised for those wishing to download BPL and HF: A Primer

**Deadline for submissions to the
October Reflector is
Saturday, Oct. 9, 2004**